SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 9 MAY 2004

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

Reception reports on the 10,130 MHz experimental relaywhen it takes place, will be appreciated.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za and on packet bulletin boards.

In the news today:

CLUB CONTACT DETAILS ON SARL WEB

PROVISIONAL RESULTS OF THE SARL VHF/UHF CONTEST

LOGBOOK OF THE WORLD DXCC CREDITS SYSTEM RENEWING DXCC ENTHUSIASM

Stay tuned for more detail on these and other news items.

Visit the SARL Web site or call the SARL office which is open on weekdays from 09:00 to 13:00 at 011 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

SARL NEWS invites clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to amateurs on the web site of the SARL, which is www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It would be appreciated if you could do it in both Afrikaans and English.

You are listening to ZS6SRL.

The news follows in detail.

CLUB CONTACT DETAILS ON SARL WEB

In an effort to improve communication with clubs and associated organisations, the SARL kindly request all radio amateur clubs and amateur radio societies in the SABEK countries to check their particulars on the web site of the SARL ie. www.sarl.org.za and update it where necessary.

Email addresses are of utmost importance for speedy communication and therefore it adviseable for all clubs to keep their contact details up to date at all times.

This request is also directed to all clubs that are not affiliated to the SARL.

PROVISIONAL RESULTS OF THE SARL VHF/UHF CONTEST

The Contest committee has released the provisional results of the first leg of the SARL VHF/UHF Contest held during March. These results will become final in 14 days unless a submission in writing is received from any entrant who wishes to contest the results.

Multi-Operator Field Station:

Magalies Radio Amateur Club ZS6MRK 4 693,5 points; Sandton Amateur Radio Club ZS6STN 2 260,5 points; OTL Radio Club ZS6OTL 2 256,0 points; Anton Oosthuizen ZR6OST 391,5 points; Bloemfontein Radio Amateur Club ZS4BFN 388,5 points.

Single Operator Multi Mode:

Ockert Taljaard ZR6ZL 1 098 points; Gerg Mumford ZS6GZ 746 points; Lee Hanegraaff ZS5LEE 324 points; Bert Howes ZS6HS 108 points.

Single Operator FM only:

Pieter Jacobs ZS6XT 359 points.

Comments from the editor: It appears that participation declined as compared with last, and previous, years. It shall be interesting to know, especially from non participants, to what this can be attributed, and what can be done to improve participation. The rules are due for review next year, so think and submit your proposals now.

It is known that at lest three field stations operated from high locations ie. those of Magalies and Sandton clubs from the Magaliesberg and ZS6OTL from Steenkampsberg, and for ZS6OTL a first time, very well done!

Was there really only one competitor in the single operator, FM only category? This category was especially instituted for amateurs who only have handheld or mobile sets and do not have more sophisticated equipment. This category should possibly attract the most competitors.

The competition offers all a posibility to experience something special. It is always great fun and for club participation it is a wonderful opportunity to display team spirit. Magalies club will for example probably never forget the Saturday night when they were caught in a terrible wind and rain storm when supper had to be abandoned and every one, non-operators included, had to cling for life and death to a tent pole or canvas for about an hour to prevent the tents from being blown away and equipment damaged.

Clubs and individuals are invited to participate later this year in the second leg of the competirion as preparation and a test run for serious competition next year.

LOGBOOK OF THE WORLD DXCC CREDITS SYSTEM RENEWING DXCC ENTHUSIASM

The ARRL Newsletter is credited for this news item.

The DXCC credits component of ARRL's Logbook of the World (LoTW) http://www.arrl.org/lotw secure contact database got off to an enthusiastic and busy start Thursday, May 6–a day later than planned.

ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG, says the much-anticipated LoTW DXCC component not only is making it easier for members to apply QSO credits to their DXCC records, it seems to be renewing overall interest in the DXCC program.

"Several hundred users had linked their Logbook accounts to their DXCC accounts in the first 24 hours the DXCC component was on-line," Mills said. "I'm thrilled to see people getting interested in DXCC again."

An ARRL member from Missouri earned the distinction of becoming the first to qualify for an initial DXCC certificate using only LoTW "virtual QSL" records. Another amateur–ARRL Midwest Division Vice Director Bruce Frahm, K0BJ–used LoTW credits to update his DXCC record and now has qualified for the DXCC Challenge.

The Logbook of the World database has grown to be a repository of some 42 million individual contact records submitted by users in the US and abroad. When both QSO participants submit matching contact records to LoTW, the result is a "virtual QSL" now good for DXCC credit. Mills says more than 2,5 million QSO matches already exist in the system.

For more information, contact the Logbook of The World staff lotw-help@arrl.org; or visit the LoTW Web site http://www.arrl.org/lotw.

THANKS FROM SASOLBURG RADIO CLUB

The Sasolburg Radio Club, ZS4SRK, would like to thank everybody who helped to make our recent special event station such a success. We participated at the Transvalia open air show and and youngsters had the opportunity to talk on air. A number of names were taken for the coming RAE in October. QSL cards will be sent out in the near future for all contacts made. Visit our website at www.qsl.net/zs4srk for more information.

PROPAGATION CONDITIONS

Kobus, ZS6KOB, reports that propagation conditions weakened during the last few days. The sunspot number was only 31,5 on Friday as against 35,0 last week. It started declining since 24 April and it may decline even further. The expectation is however that it will rise later in the week to the so called 27 day high - around next week end.

Conditions were reasonably good on the 7th May due to inflow of coronal mass from the sun to the earth. Average conditions are expected from 8 till 11 May. It is expected that North-South conditions should be good. In spite of the very low sunspot number conditions on Friday at 17:00 were very good to the East and also between Cape Town and the North. Do not under estimate the low sunspot numbers!

ACTIVITIES IN WHICH TO PARTICIPATE

15 May East Rand Radio Club foxhunt; 20 May Radio Amateur Examination.

The SARL invites you to listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 17 815, 9 750, and 7 082 kHz and 145,625 MHz in East London, 145,650 in Durban 145,750 MHz in Pretoria and 438,800 in the Sandton area. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 21:00 CAT on 3 215 kHz.

Telkom and Sentech sponsor ARMI.

This then brings us to the end of today's bulletin, which was compiled by George, ZS6NE, and read by …….from…… as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL and thank you for having joined us. Also many thanks to those persons who supply news for our bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

/EX